Multi-tier fencing along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir

*468. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering for 580 Kms., multi-tier fencing out of the volatile, 778 Kms. long LoC in Jammu and Kashmir in order to put a break on infiltration;

(b) if so, when the fencing is expected to be completed; and

(c) what will be the financial involvement thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The construction of 734 Kms. of fence on the Line of Control (LoC) has been completed in September 2004 at an expenditure of Rs. 315 crores. There is no proposal under consideration for construction of another tier of fence along the LoC.

Steps to improve textile industry

*469. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to capitalise on the emerging business opportunities the Indian textile industry needs to invest massively and build large capacities to improve productivity and reduce costs;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also true that Indian textile industry needs to invest in export infrastructure, brand creation and education for those working in the apparel industry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to take full advantage of opportunities available in quota free regime, there is a need for substantial capital investments of Rs. 25,000—30,000 crore per year in the textile industry during the coming years, which would include investment in export infrastructure, brand creation and the education of workers engaged in apparel industry.

The Government has initiated the following important measures to meet the investment target:

(i) Rationalisation of the fiscal duty structure;